

TOWN OF AVON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



Tuesday, May 2, 2023

The Moderator, Frank Staffier called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the required quorum of Fifty (50) being present. Moderator Staffier called for Congressman Stephen Lynch to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Congressman Stephen Lynch and Senator Michael Brady addressed the audience and provided updates.

Moderator Staffier called for Articles 1.

ARTICLE 1: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to waive the reading of reports and minutes of the previous session(s) and to hear and act on the annual reports of the Town Officers and Town Departments for the year ending December 31, 2022 and to hear the reports of any committees.

ARTICLE 2: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to take this Article with Article 3: to fix the salaries of the elected Town Officers for the Fiscal Year 2024 and raise and appropriate the necessary funds to defray such costs.

ARTICLE 3: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2024, including salaries of the several elected officers of the Town, and make appropriations for the same.

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
114	<u>MODERATOR</u>					
		Salary	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100
		Expenses	225	426	426	426
	Total Moderator		1,225	1,526	1,526	1,526
122	<u>SELECTMEN</u>					
		Salary	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
		Salary Non Union	67,808	73,383	73,383	73,383
		Expenses	19,022	19,022	19,022	19,022
		Salary Reserve	171,526	50,000	50,000	50,000
		Newsletter	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Total Selectmen	Celebrations	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750
			282,106	166,155	166,155	166,155

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
125	<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>					
		Expenses	9,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Total Human Resources		9,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
129	<u>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</u>					
		Salary	156,788	162,392	162,392	162,392
		Expenses	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
	Total Town Administrator		161,288	166,892	166,892	166,892
131	<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>					
		Expenses	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050
	Total Finance Committee		5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050
132	<u>FINCOM RESERVE</u>					
		Reserve Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
	Total Reserve Fund		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
135	<u>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</u>					
		Salary	109,956	118,563	118,563	118,563
		Expenses	40,020	41,328	41,328	41,328
	Total Town Accountant		149,976	159,891	159,891	159,891
141	<u>ASSESSORS</u>					
		Salaries	122,393	51,644	51,644	51,644
		Expenses	23,220	93,175	93,175	93,175
	Total Assessors		145,613	144,819	144,819	144,819
145	<u>TREASURER/COLLECTOR</u>					
		Salary	217,546	226,257	226,257	226,257
		Expenses	20,780	20,600	20,600	20,600
	Total Treasurer/Collector		238,326	246,857	246,857	246,857
149	<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>					
		Salary	80,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
		Expenses	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
	Total Technology		340,000	345,000	345,000	345,000
151	<u>LEGAL</u>					
		Retainer, Town Counsel	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
		Purchase Services	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
		Assessors Legal Expense	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Total Legal		133,250	133,250	133,250	133,250
152	<u>PERSONNEL BOARD</u>					
		Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Personnel Board		100	100	100	100

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
155	<u>PAYROLL DATA PROC.</u>					
		Expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Total Reserve Fund		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
161	<u>TOWN CLERK</u>					
		Salary	131,219	153,442	153,442	153,442
		Expenses	8,109	9,873	9,873	9,873
	Total Town Clerk		139,328	163,315	163,315	163,315
162	<u>ELECTIONS/REGISTRARS</u>					
		Salary	4,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
		Expenses	7,500	7,925	7,925	7,925
	Total Elections/Registrars		12,000	11,425	11,425	11,425
163	<u>CENSUS</u>					
		Expenses	3,200	3,700	3,700	3,700
	Total Census		3,200	3,700	3,700	3,700
171	<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</u>					
		Salary	500	-	-	-
		Expenses	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,850
	Total Conservation Comm.		5,350	4,850	4,850	4,850
175	<u>PLANNING BOARD</u>					
		Salaries	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
		Expenses	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
	Total Planning Board		9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300
176	<u>BOARD OF APPEALS</u>					
		Expenses	200	200	200	200
	Total Board of Appeals		200	200	200	200
180	<u>Development/Town Planner</u>					
		Expenses	-	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Total Development/Town Planner			40,000	40,000	40,000
184	<u>CABLE TV ADV. BOARD</u>					
		Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Cable TV Adv. Board		100	100	100	100
192	<u>TOWN HALL & BUILDING MAINT.</u>					
		Salary (clock)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Expenses	85,682	85,682	85,682	85,682
	Total TH and Bldg. Maint.		86,682	86,682	86,682	86,682

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
195	<u>TOWN REPORTS</u>					
		Expenses	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
		Total Town Reports	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
210	<u>POLICE DEPARTMENT</u>					
		Salary	2,048,513	2,241,086	2,241,086	2,241,086
		Expenses	256,773	277,392	277,392	277,392
		Police Cruiser	51,000	56,000	56,000	56,000
		CMVI transfer	(51,000)	(56,000)	(56,000)	(56,000)
		Total Police Department	2,305,286	2,518,478	2,518,478	2,518,478
215	<u>FIRE & POLICE DISPATCH</u>					
		Salary	365,439	404,414	404,414	404,414
		Total Fire & Police Dispatch	365,439	404,414	404,414	404,414
220	<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT</u>					
		Salary	1,575,809	2,237,406	1,744,846	1,744,846
		Ambulance transfer	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)
		Expenses	226,575	284,400	284,400	284,400
		Ambulance transfer	(50,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)
		Total Fire Department	1,677,384	2,386,806	1,894,246	1,894,246
241	<u>BUILDING INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	105,283	135,411	135,411	135,411
		Alt. Inspector	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,225
		Expenses	11,030	15,285	15,285	15,285
		Total Building Inspector	119,538	153,921	153,921	153,921
242	<u>GAS INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	9,816	9,816	9,816	9,816
		Alt. Inspector	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060
		Expenses	600	600	600	600
		Total Gas Inspector	11,476	11,476	11,476	11,476
243	<u>PLUMBING INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	9,816	9,816	9,816	9,816
		Alt. Inspector	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060
		Expenses	600	600	600	600
		Total Plumbing Inspector	11,476	11,476	11,476	11,476
245	<u>WIRING INSPECTOR</u>					
		Salary	19,632	19,632	19,632	19,632
		Alt. Inspector	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168
		Expenses	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
		Total Wiring Inspector	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
292	<u>ANIMAL CONTROL</u>					
		Expenses	15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700
	Total Animal Control		15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700
294	<u>TREE WARDEN</u>					
		Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Expenses	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	Total Tree Warden		19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
299	<u>LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</u>					
		Expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Total Local Emerg. Mgt.		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
300	<u>AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS</u>					
		Operating Expense	10,903,295	11,838,906	11,625,418	11,625,418
		School Choice offset	(960,622)	(1,164,512)	(1,164,512)	(1,164,512)
	Total Public School		9,942,673	10,674,394	10,460,906	10,460,906
390	<u>BLUE HILLS REG. SCHOOLS</u>					
		Operating Expense	738,894	690,308	690,308	690,308
		Capital Outlay	140,034	140,034	140,034	140,034
		Schools to Careers	15,058	15,058	15,058	15,058
	Total Blue Hills		893,986	845,400	845,400	845,400
391	<u>NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL</u>					
		Operating Expense	16,976	16,976	16,976	16,976
	Total Norfolk Aggie		16,976	16,976	16,976	16,976
423	<u>SNOW & ICE</u>					
		Expenses	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	Total Snow & Ice		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
424	<u>STREET LIGHTING</u>					
		Expenses	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	Total Street Lighting		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
433	<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>					
		Rubbish Collection	543,500	565,000	565,000	565,000
		Recycling Expenses	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
	Total Waste Disposal		571,500	593,000	593,000	593,000
440	<u>DPW</u>					
		Salary	864,777	938,418	938,418	938,418
		Expenses	597,826	598,726	598,726	598,726
	Total Highway Department		1,462,603	1,537,144	1,537,144	1,537,144

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
510	<u>BOARD OF HEALTH</u>					
		Salary/Service	145,775	147,267	147,267	147,267
		Animal Inspector	700	700	700	700
		Expenses	16,200	18,200	18,200	18,200
		Compost Attendant	10,038	13,300	13,300	13,300
	Total Board of Health		172,713	179,467	179,467	179,467
529	<u>HEALTH SERVICES</u>					
		Visiting Nurses	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
	Total Health Services		14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
541	<u>COUNCIL ON AGING</u>					
		Salary	225,163	211,691	211,691	211,691
		Expenses	10,870	15,870	15,870	15,870
	Total Council on Aging		236,033	227,561	227,561	227,561
543	<u>VETERANS SERVICES</u>					
		Salary	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
		Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Veterans Benefits	37,600	37,600	37,600	37,600
		Veterans Quarters	700	700	700	700
	Total Veterans Services		46,300	46,300	46,300	46,300
610	<u>LIBRARY</u>					
		Salary	325,952	327,425	327,425	327,425
		Expenses	145,784	147,121	147,121	147,121
	Total Library		471,736	474,546	474,546	474,546
650	<u>PARK & RECREATION</u>					
		Salary	62,437	62,437	62,437	62,437
		Expenses	31,633	31,633	31,633	31,633
	Total Park & Rec.		94,070	94,070	94,070	94,070
695	<u>CULTURAL COUNCIL</u>					
		Expenses	100	100	100	100
	Total Cultural		100	100	100	100
699	<u>MEMORIAL DAY</u>					
		Expenses	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
	Total Memorial Day		9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
	<u>DEBT PAYMENT</u>					
710		Debt outside cap	1,945,900	1,910,600	1,910,600	1,910,600
752		Short Term Borrowing	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
760		Cost of Bond Issuance	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
	Total Debt Payment		1,963,900	1,928,600	1,928,600	1,928,600

Dept	LINE	Description	2023 Approved	FY24 Department Request	BOS/ Fin Com Recommends	FY 24 Budget
	<u>PENSIONS</u>					
911		Norfolk County Retirement	1,674,267	1,846,616	1,846,616	1,846,616
		OPEB	225,000	145,000	145,000	145,000
	Total Pensions		1,899,267	1,991,616	1,991,616	1,991,616
	<u>INSURANCE</u>					
912		Workmens Comp	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000
913		Unemployment	60,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
914		Medical & Life	3,203,031	3,417,583	3,417,583	3,417,583
916		Medicare	250,000	255,000	255,000	255,000
910		Medicaid	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
945		Liability	175,000	185,000	185,000	185,000
	Total Insurance		3,810,031	4,029,583	4,029,583	4,029,583
930	<u>CAPITAL PLANNING</u>					
		Expenses	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170
		Capital Reserve	60,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
	Total Capital Planning		61,170	76,170	76,170	76,170
Total Budget			28,243,451	30,290,310	29,584,262	29,584,262

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and to enter into a contract for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or County of Norfolk for the construction, reconstruction and/or improvement of Town roads.

NOTE: Chapter 90 Funding

ARTICLE 5: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from the Septic Loan Receipts Account a sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$27,740) for repayment of the CLEAN Water Pollution Abatement Trust Loan voted and approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2015, Article 37.

ARTICLE 6: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from free cash the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) to previous ATM May 2018 Article 16 to fund necessary water operations of the Town as listed below.

Program	Amount	Previous Article	Source
Cross Connection	\$14,000	ATM 5-2018 #16	Free Cash

NOTE: The Interconnect Program is for protecting, maintaining, and maximizing the sustainability of the Town's water supply and treatment, evaluating, and upgrading interconnects with area towns and supply capacities, projects related to water storage and distribution.

FINANCE ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 7: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 4/5TH VOTE (COUNTED YES 71 /NO 7)** to transfer from free cash the sum of Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars and Ninety-Four cents (\$5,177.94) to pay prior year bills.

RBLA Design: \$765
Atlantic Tactical: \$134.66
WB Mason: \$251.75
Morton Salt, Inc. \$4,026.53

ARTICLE 8: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to set the following annual spending limits for the revolving accounts authorized by May 2022 ATM Article 14:

Revolving Account:	Spending Limit:
COA Van	\$7,500
COA Lunch	\$15,000
Park and Recreation	\$50,000

NOTE: ATM May 2022 Article 14 established and authorized revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½.

ARTICLE 9: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from free cash the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Seven dollars (\$5,707) to upgrade the Treasurer/Collectors software from DNWINDOWS to QDS CORE this updates a DOS version of software we have been using since 2002.

ARTICLE 10: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to vote, pursuant to Chapter 40 §5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, and determine how the money from such fund may be spent; to see if the Town will vote to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of money received from judgements or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023, or act in any way relative thereto; and, further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40 §5B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 11: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 17D exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from One-Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$175) to Two-Hundred Dollars (\$200) and by lowering the age of qualification from Seventy (70) to Sixty-Five (65).

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing elderly person statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 12: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 22 exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from Four-Hundred Dollars (\$400) to Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500).

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing qualifying veterans' statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 13: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 37A exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500) to Six-Hundred Dollars (\$600).

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing blind person statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 14: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 41C exemptions by increasing the gross receipts limits from Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) if single and from Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) if married; and by increasing the whole estate limit from Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) to Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) if married; and by lowering the age of qualification from Seventy (70) to Sixty-Five (65); and by increasing the exemption amount from Seven-Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750) to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).

NOTE: This does not establish new tax exemptions. Instead, it updates the requirements and amounts for the existing senior citizen statutory exemptions.

An amendment was made and withdrawn on this article.

ARTICLE 15: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 2/3RD Vote (Yes 65 / NO 16)** to amend the Town of Avon Zoning By-Laws with text pertaining to automotive service and open-air drive-in retail service as posted with the Town Clerk and subject to a Public Hearing.

Current:

§ 255-5.3 Table of Use Regulations.

<i>Table of Use Regulations - Principal Uses</i>										
<i>Avon Zoning Districts</i>										
	<i>RES R-25</i>	<i>RES R-40</i>	<i>GEN BUS</i>	<i>IND</i>	<i>COM</i>	<i>MU Low D</i>	<i>RES HD</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>VOD</i>	
F.	<i>Automotive Service and Open-Air Drive-In Retail Service</i>									
1b	<i>Self-service gasoline sales outlet.</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>

Change to:

§ 255-5.3 Table of Use Regulations.

<i>Table of Use Regulations - Principal Uses</i>									
<i>Avon Zoning Districts</i>									
	<i>RES R-25</i>	<i>RES R-40</i>	<i>GEN BUS</i>	<i>IND</i>	<i>COM</i>	<i>MU Low D</i>	<i>RES HD</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>VOD</i>
F.	<i>Automotive Service and Open-Air Drive-In Retail Service</i>								
1b	<i>Self-service gasoline sales outlet.</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>

NOTE: The Planning Board held a public hearing on Thursday, April 6th. The board will report the results and give a recommendation at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from free cash the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000) for the purchase of a new Board of Health vehicle.

NOTE: Currently the Board of Health has a 2016 Ford Escape. Would like to have this vehicle replaced with a small pick-up truck or another SUV.

ARTICLE WITHDRAWN

ARTICLE 17: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to amend Article 4 of the January 28, 2023, Special Town Meeting which read:

A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Million One Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$1,117,000) to complete funding for “paving” various streets.

By changing “paving” to

“design, associated costs, installation of water lines, road reconstruction, sidewalks and paving”.

NOTE: This amends Article 4 of the Jan 28, 2023, STM to clarify the funds appropriated can be used for water as well as roads as part of the streets that are part of the two projects. This article is not requesting any additional funds.

ARTICLE 18: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$116,007.70) from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account as the 3rd of 5 payments of the lease purchase agreement on, the Fire Department’s Rescue Pumper truck.

NOTE: This is the third of five payments of approximately \$120,000 which will be funded through the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account.

ARTICLE 19: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from free cash sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to upgrade Police and Fire radio equipment for digital Emergency Management communication.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the Capital Stabilization Account or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE WITHDRAWN

ARTICLE 21: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from free cash the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand Six hundred and Eighty-Nine Dollars and Six Cents (\$69,689.06) to be placed in the Stabilization Account.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia C. Bessette
Town Clerk